

## **APPENDIX F**

### **OFFICIAL INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS**

The following enclosures are Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), dated May 4, 1992; Letter of Agreement between the AFRC, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and NOAA, dated February 16, 1996; and a Letter of Agreement between the AFRC and NOAA Air Operations Center (AOC), dated August 3, 1993. The purpose of these agreements is to establish policies, principles, and procedures under which the FAA, AFRC, and NOAA AOC provide aircraft weather reconnaissance in support of NOAA's tropical cyclone forecast, warning, and research missions.

# MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE RESERVE

AND

THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

**PURPOSE:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) does not have the capability to fully support all operational requirements in support of tropical storm reconnaissance. This memorandum establishes policies, principles, and procedures under which the Air Force Reserve (AFRES) will provide aircraft weather reconnaissance support to NOAA.

## 1. REFERENCES:

a. SAF/PAT Message, 312020Z JUL 90, Subj: Deactivation of WC-130 Mission

b. National Hurricane Operations Plan (NHOP)

2. BACKGROUND: The Air Force Reserve will maintain an aircraft weather reconnaissance force of 12 WC-130s (currently 8 PAA and 4 BAI, planned to become 10 PAA and 2 BAI with congressional approval) to meet the Department of Commerce (DOC) requirements for aircraft reconnaissance. NOAA has a requirement for up to five sorties per day in support of the NHOP. The Office of Management and Budget determined that the Department of Defense (DOD) should provide support to NOAA, and DOD will bear all costs directly attributable to providing this reconnaissance support. This support will be limited to congressional funding for hours of aircraft flying time per year.

3. IMPLEMENTATION: Implementation details are contained in "GENERAL PROVISION".

## 4. GENERAL PROVISION:

a. AFRES agrees:

(1) To meet NOAA's requirement to conduct, within the limits of military capability, aerial weather reconnaissance for purposes of providing tropical cyclone warning services.

(a) Total flying hours will not exceed 1600 hours annually. To date, Congress has fully funded 1600 hours for FY 92 only. Unless the congressional budget language is permanently changed for FY 93 and beyond, the flying hour program will consist of 1000 fully funded weather hours in addition to another 600 hours that may be taken from the tactical airlift program, as required.

(b) The operational area for AFRES weather reconnaissance will include the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea, and the North

Pacific Ocean. AFRES will be able to support two deployed locations simultaneously with the required maximum of five sorties daily.

(2) To provide an aircraft operations interface [Chief, Aerial Reconnaissance Coordination, All Hurricanes (CARCAH)] with NOAA at the National Hurricane Center. To date, funding for the CARCAH position has not been forthcoming from HQ USAF. AFRES is prepared to provide the manpower positions out-of-hide through 1 Oct 92. AFRES reserves the right to review periodically the CARCAH function in order to see if we can save government funds by consolidating manpower positions and moving the operational functions of CARCAH to Keesler AFB.

b. NOAA agrees to notify AFRES promptly for flight scheduling in accordance with this implementing agreement. Tasking will be through the Director, National Hurricane Center.

c. AFRES has no obligation to support winter storm or other weather operations. However, subject to aircraft and aircrew availability, the 403 AW/CC may, at NOAA request, approve specific winter storm or other weather-related missions. These missions will fall under the purview and limitations of this agreement; i.e., 1600 hours annually for all weather reconnaissance, etc.

5. MOBILIZATION: This memorandum remains in effect during periods of mobilization subject to aircraft and Reserve personnel availability, in accordance with 33 U.S.C. 855. There is no wartime tasking for the 815 WOP. Upon mobilization, however, aircrews will be limited to the six primary assigned weather crews. In addition, maintenance support could be sharply limited. Therefore, after mobilization, weather operations may be severely curtailed or eliminated.

6. EFFECTIVE AND TERMINATION DATES: This memorandum is effective the date signed by the last approving official and will be reviewed every three years from the effective date. Changes or revisions to this memorandum require the approval of both parties involved.

FOR THE UNITED STATES  
AIR FORCE RESERVE

JACK W. BLAIR, JR, Colonel, USAFR  
Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations

Date

19 Jan 92

FOR THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

JENNIFER JOY WILSON  
Asst Secretary and Deputy Administrator  
for Oceans and Atmosphere

Date

MAY 4 1992

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Distribution List

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA)  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE RESERVE (AFRES)  
NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA)

LETTER OF AGREEMENT

EFFECTIVE:

SUBJECT: METEOROLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS

1. PURPOSE: Establishes procedures to be used by the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron (53 WRS), the NOAA Aircraft Operations Center (AOC), and the FAA during Winter storm missions in support of the NWSOP, and during hurricane/tropical cyclone missions in support of the NHOP.

2. CANCELLATION: This Letter of Agreement (LOA) remains in effect for 5 years from the date of the last signature hereon, unless expressly canceled by one of the participating agencies with 30 days' notification.

3. REFERENCES:

- a. National Hurricane Operations Plan (NHOP)
- b. National Winter Storm Operations Plan (NWSOP)

4. SCOPE: The responsibilities and procedures outlined herein are for use in the conduct of weather reconnaissance flights in support of the NHOP and the NWSOP within the airspace for which the FAA provides air traffic control (ATC) services.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES:

- a. Aircraft commanders are the sole responsible party for all dropsonde or other sensor releases.
- b. The aircraft commander is responsible for determining the content and duration of a broadcast concerning the release of a dropsonde or other sensor.
- c. The FAA will provide ATC services and separation from nonparticipating aircraft to 53 WRS and AOC aircraft operating in other than Class G airspace. It is the responsibility of the aircraft commander to remain clear of obstacles and nonparticipating aircraft when operating in Class G airspace.

d. The 53 WRS and AOC are responsible for ensuring that air traffic clearances and messages are relayed to/from the FAA in an accurate manner when those relays are initiated by 53 WRS or AOC and are routed through other than Aeronautical Radio (ARINC). Aircraft conducting weather reconnaissance flights in support of the NHOP and the NWSOP may communicate directly with the FAA via Satellite Communications (SATCOM) when practicable.

## 6. PROCEDURES:

a. The 53 WRS Current Operations (53 WRS/DOO) or the AOC Flight Operations Division, as appropriate, will contact the FAA Central Altitude Reservation Function (CARF) and submit an Altitude Reservation Approval Request (ALTRV APREQ) at least 12 hours prior to an NWSOP mission, and pass the information specified in the NWSOP within the paragraph entitled "Prior Coordination." Individual exceptions may be made to the 12 hour requirement on a case-by-case basis through coordination between the 53rd WRS, AOC and CARF.

b. CARF will process the ALTRV APREQ, accomplishing coordination with impacted facilities. The 53rd WRS and AOC shall coordinate with scheduling/using agencies to transit Special Use Airspace (restricted, warning, etc.) along their route of flight.

c. The 53 WRS/DOO and the AOC Flight Operations Division will contact the Air Traffic Control System Command Center (ATCSCC) as soon as possible prior to an NHOP mission and provide information specified in the NHOP in the paragraph entitled "Prior Coordination." The ATCSCC will then coordinate this information with all FAA facilities impacted.

d. The 53 WRS shall only use the call sign "TEAL," and AOC shall only use the call sign "NOAA," and will only be given priority handling when specifically requested.

e. Tracks flown in support of the NWSOP shall be defined in supplements to this LOA. Changes, additions and deletions to these tracks shall be coordinated between the 53 WRS, AOC (if and when AOC is tasked to fly NWSOP missions) and CARF. These tracks shall be reviewed annually, no later than June 1.

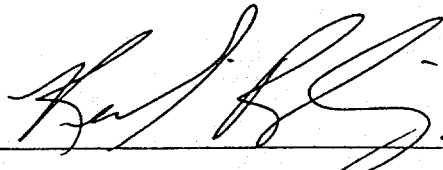
f. During NHOP and NWSOP missions, dropsonde instrument releases shall be coordinated with ATC by advising of a pending drop at least 10 minutes prior to drop when in direct radio contact with ATC. When contact with ATC is via ARINC, dropsonde release coordination shall be included with the position report prior to the point where the dropsonde will be released. EXAMPLE: "TEAL 63, SLATN at 1215, FL310, estimating FLANN at 1250, CHAMP next. Weather instrument release at FLANN."

g. During NHOP and NWSOP missions, commencing 5 minutes prior to release of dropsondes from FL 190 or higher, the aircraft commander will broadcast in the blind on 121.5 and 243.0 to advise any traffic in the area of the pending drop.

h. When 53 WRS and AOC flights are unable to contact ATC to request an en route clearance, a clearance request may be relayed through the Chief, Aerial Reconnaissance

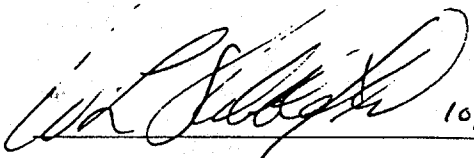
Coordination, All Hurricanes (CARCAH). This relay may only be used to preclude an emergency or safety-related situation.

i. ATC may request that CARCAH relay information to/from a mission aircraft when other methods of communications are not possible.



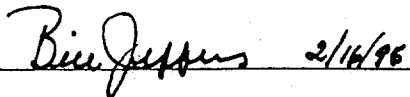
28 Aug 95

United States Air Force Reserve  
Director of Operations



10/15/95

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration  
Director, NOAA Corps Operations



2/16/96

Federal Aviation Administration  
Director of Air Traffic

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS 403d AIRLIFT WING (AFRES)  
KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE MISSISSIPPI 39534-5000

LETTER OF AGREEMENT

1. PURPOSE: This Letter of Agreement (LOA) establishes procedures whereby 815th Weather Squadron (815WS) and/or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) aircraft can operate within the same general airspace while conducting weather reconnaissance or weather research in a real or suspected tropical disturbance.

2. DEFINITIONS (for purposes of this LOA):

a. WEATHER RECONNAISSANCE and WEATHER RESEARCH will be considered synonymous terms during missions for the purpose of entering airspace defined below as an AREA OF INTEREST.

b. PARTICIPATING AIRCRAFT - those aircraft which operate under the parameters established by the National Hurricane Operations Plan (NHOP). NOAA aircraft will use the callsign "NOAA" such as "NOAA 42" and 815WS aircraft will use the callsign "TEAL" such as "TEAL 14."

c. CONTROLLING AGENCY - Air Traffic Control (ATC) facility issuing clearances to participating aircraft.

d. CARCAH - Chief, Aerial Reconnaissance Coordination, All Hurricanes.

e. AREA OF INTEREST - An area defined by latitude and longitude coordinates as a center point to include all airspace within a 250 nautical mile radius around that point and extending from the surface to 24,000 feet (AGL). Center coordinates are published by CARCAH in the TROPICAL CYCLONE PLAN OF THE DAY (TCPOD), item "E".

f. ALTITUDE CONFLICT - A flight condition during which participating aircraft operate within an AREA OF INTEREST within 2,000 feet (vertical separation) of each other.

g. QUADRANT OF OPERATIONS - Geographic area within the AREA OF INTEREST defined as Northeast, Southeast, Southwest or Northwest from the center coordinates. One-fourth of the AREA OF INTEREST.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROCEDURES:

a. The 815WS and/or NOAA will be tasked to fly a particular mission by CARCAH, or if not tasked, will advise CARCAH of intent to operate within the AREA OF INTEREST. Such advice should be given CARCAH at least twelve (12) hours before intended take-off and in no case less than three (3) hours before intended takeoff. Such advice shall include number of aircraft scheduled to fly, callsigns, scheduled takeoff times, estimated arrival time in the AREA OF INTEREST, altitudes to be flown, and estimated departure time from the AREA.

b. CARCAH will determine if a potential ALTITUDE CONFLICT exists and will advise the 815 WS and NOAA Operations centers and any airborne PARTICIPATING AIRCRAFT of the altitudes to be flown. PARTICIPATING AIRCRAFT will comply with the provisions of paragraphs 3d and 3e of this LOA to insure safe altitude separation.

c. CARCAH will advise the 815WS and NOAA operations centers whenever more than one PARTICIPATING AIRCRAFT will be in the AREA OF INTEREST at one time. Respective operations centers will advise the affected air crews. If notification by CARCAH occurs less than one hour before takeoff, CARCAH will advise the affected crew(s) by any means available.

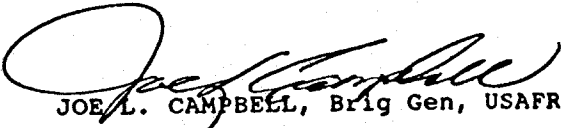
d. PARTICIPATING AIRCRAFT crews will comply with the NHOP Chapter 5, AIRCRAFT RECONNAISSANCE. When advised that another PARTICIPATING AIRCRAFT will be operating within the same AREA OF INTEREST, crews will follow procedures in paragraph 5.9.3, AIR-TO-AIR COMMUNICATIONS.

e. PARTICIPATING AIRCRAFT crews will set 29.92 (inches hg) in at least one pressure altimeter. When contact is made with other PARTICIPATING AIRCRAFT, crews will confirm other aircraft's pressure altitude and geographic position as well as planned QUADRANT OF OPERATIONS and true heading. Crews will not deviate from the briefed QUADRANT and will not fly within 2,000 feet (vertical) of other participants without the concurrence of other PARTICIPATING AIRCRAFT.

f. PARTICIPATING AIRCRAFT experiencing loss of all radio communications will follow standard "LOST COMM" procedures.


4. EFFECTIVE AND TERMINATION DATES: This LOA is effective at 2359 (ZULU) on the date signed by the last approving official and will remain in effect until terminated in writing by either party. Changes to this LOA must be agreed to in writing by both parties.

FOR THE 403d AIRLIFT WING

  
JOE L. CAMPBELL, Brig Gen, USAFR  
Commander

Date 29 Jul 93

FOR THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION,  
AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS CENTER

  
F.D. MORAN, RADM, NOAA  
Director

Date 3 Aug 93

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